Ban on Anabolic steroids

1633. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether abuse of 30 brands of anabolic steroids continues in India which cause sickness as reported in the Times of India dated 20.6.1989;

(b) whether these drugs are freely and easily available even without a Doctor's prescription; and

(c) whether Government have any plans to ban some of these steroids as has been done in the USA and to ensure that these are not available freely without prescription?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Brands of anabolic steroids continue to be marketed for permitted indications in consultation with the experts.

(b) and (c) These drugs are not banned in U.S.A. and they can be sold in India only against the prescription of registered medical practitioner.

Effects of chemical contamination of food

1634. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the findings of British Scientists that due to chemical contamination of food and environment, deadly dioxins are formed in breast milk as reported in the Indian Express of 16th May, 1989;

(b) whether any similar study had been conducted in India to find out the extent of pesticides residues in food and in breast milk; if so, the details thereof, indicating the number of samples taken during 1988-89 in the States, State-wise where infant food plants are located;

(c) whether any follow-up/corrective steps were taken; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to initiate a process of evaluating the situation so as to save the mute children from chemical poisoning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No specific studies to detect the presence of Dioxins in the breast milk are within the knowledge of the Govt. Dioxins have not been registered for use in India under the Insecticide Act 1968. Therefore, the question of its presence in food chain in the country is not normally expected.

The State Govts. have already been advised to keep strict vigil on the residue of pesticides and insecticide in foods.

Setting up of Biotechnology Centre in Madhya Pradesh

1635. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for establishing Biotechnology Centre in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, by when such a Centre is likely to established in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, a suggestion for establishing a Centre for Biotechnology in Madhya Pradesh was received, and referred to the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh who have recently informed that they have taken a decision to establish a Biotechnology Centre in Madhya Pradesh under the aegis of Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology and the State Govt. has constituted an Expert Advisory Committee to guide the Madhya Pradesh